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REPORT

OF

MESSRS. PECK AND PRICE,

WHO WERE APPOINTED

AT A MEETING OF THE FREE COLORED PEOPLE OF BALTIMORE,

HELD ON THE 25TH NOVEMBER, 1839,

7585.182

DELEGATES

TO

VISIT BRITISH GUIANA,

AND THE

ISLAND OF TRINIDAD;

AND

OTHER INFORMATION, SHEWING THE ADVANTAGES TO BE DERIVED

BY

IMMIGRATING TO THOSE COLONIES.

BOSTON:
PRINTED BY TUTTLE & DENNETT.
1841.

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REPORT.

AGREEABLY to a public notice given out in the several churches specified in the following Resolution, passed on the 23d day of November, 1839:

Resolved, That it be respectfully recommended to the several congregations of the colored population, of the City of Baltimore, in State of Maryland, to announce from their several and respective pulpits, that a public meeting would be held at the Bethel School room, in the said City, on Monday evening the 25th day of November, 1839, for the purpose of selecting two persons, as delegates, to visit the province of British Guiana and the Island of Trinidad, to ascertain the character of the climate, soil, natural productions, and the political and social condition of the colored inhabitants of the province and Island aforesaid, and hereafter to report to a public meeting, to be called for that purpose, all the information acquired by them, and especially whether it possesses such advantages as can justify the free colored population of this City and State to migrate thither.

In pursuance thereof, a large and respectable number of the free colored population of the city of Baltimore aforesaid, met at the Bethel School-room, in the city of Baltimore aforesaid, on Monday evening the 25th November, 1839.

The meeting was organized by the appointment of Thomas Green, as Chairman, and Harrison H. Webb, as Secretary; the object of the Meeting being fully explained, the following Resolution was offered:—

Resolved, That this Meeting now proceed to elect two persons as delegates, with instructions to proceed first to the Province of British Guiana, on the continent of South America, and thence to the Island of Trinidad, and at each of said places to ascertain the character of the climate, soil, natural productions, and the political and social condition of the colored inhabitants of the Province and Island aforesaid. Said Resolution being adopted, the Meeting proceeded to elect two persons in conformity thereto, and after counting all the ballots, the Chairman announced to the meeting, that Nathaniel

Peck and Thomas S. Price had received the largest number of votes, and were duly elected delegates for the purposes set forth in the foregoing Resolution.

Now this is to certify to all whom it may come, that in pursuance of the proceedings had in the premises, that the above named Nathaniel Peck and Thomas S. Price, are duly authorized, empowered, and commissioned to proceed to the Province of British Guiana, and the Island of Trinidad, for the purpose contemplated and especially set forth by the written and aforegoing Resolution.

Thomas Green, *Chairman.*

Test, H. H. Webb, *Secretary.*

"We the undersigned, cheerfully bear testimony to the uniform correct deportment of Thomas Green, Chairman of the meeting referred to in the above proceedings. The persons named as delegates, Nathaniel Peck and Thomas Price, are two of the most industrious, intelligent, and respectable of our colored population, and we hope will be received and treated in the places they propose visiting, with all the attention and kindness which the object they have in view entitle them to.

N. Brice, *Chief Judge Balt. City Court.*
W. D. G. Worthington, *As. Judge B. City Court.*
U. S. Heath, *Dist. Judge U. S. Court.*
S. C. Leakin, *Mayor of the City of Baltimore.*

In pursuance of the foregoing resolutions, we, your delegates, proceeded to Boston, and on the 21st of December, 1839, sailed for Georgetown, Demarara, in the province of British Guiana, where we arrived on the 21st January, 1840. We proceeded to deliver the letters which we were the bearers of, to those gentleman whom Mr Carbery had written to, and were received with all due respect. It was then arranged that we should pay a visit to his Excellency, Governor Light, the next day at 12 o'clock. At the time appointed, we were accompanied there by Mr Bagot, and introduced to his Excellency, who received us in a manner highly flattering, and gave us a great deal of important information, and assured us if we or any of our brethren should feel disposed to emigrate to Guiana, we might rely upon his protection and assistance ; as much so as if we were British born subjects. By appointment, the same afternoon, we met the Board of Directors of the Emigration Society, convened expressly to have an interview with us.

The following is from the Royal Gazette, of the 23d January.

EMIGRATION SOCIETY.

Extracts from the minutes of the Proceedings of the Board of Directors.

The Secretary laid over letters from Edward Carbery, Esquire, one of the 18th December last, was read, and ordered to be published for general information, being as follows:

Boston, 18th December, 1839.

"Dear Holmes:—This letter will be handed to you by Messrs. Nathaniel Peck and Thomas S. Price, who have been appointed agents by the free colored people of the State of Maryland, to visit British Guiana, and to report to their brethren, the advantages they are likely to derive from emigrating to that Colony.

I have agreed with the Baltimore Committee of Immigration, that the passage of their Agents to Demerara, and their expenses while there, shall be paid, and that sixty dollars shall be allowed them on account of their return passage to this country. I consider myself responsible for the fulfilment of this agreement, and request you will furnish the necessary funds on my account, should there be no public resources available.

The visit of Messrs. Peck and Price being connected with a subject of great importance to the Agricultural Interests of British Guiana, I have no doubt every facility will be afforded them in the accomplishment of their object.

They have consented to quit their families, and to undertake a long voyage, chiefly on the faith of my representations; they have, therefore, peculiar claims upon me, and I cannot too strongly recommend them to your kind protection.

Ever yours,

J. A. Holmes, Esq. E. Carbery."

The Secretary informed the Board of the arrival in the Colony of Messrs. Nathaniel Peck and Thomas S. Price, delegates chosen and appointed by a general meeting of the free colored population of the City of Baltimore and State of Maryland, held on the 25th November, 1839, to proceed to the province of British Guiana, for the purpose of ascertaining the character of the climate, soil, its natural productions, and the political and social condition of the colored inhabitants of the province, and of reporting thereon; and especially whether it possesses such advantages as can justify the free colored population of the aforesaid City and State, migrating hither.

Messrs. Nathaniel Peck and Thomas S. Price were then introduced at the Board, and laid over their credentials, and the unanimous expression of the desire of the Hon. Chairman and Directors to render them every assistance in their power to further the important object they have in view, was conveyed to these gentlemen. And further,

It was Resolved, That a public advertisement be issued, soliciting the inhabitants generally to afford them, during their intended pro-

gress throughout the province, every assistance and kind attention in their power. The Board then adjourned.

(True extract.) THOS. C. BAGOT, *Secretary.*

The attention of the inhabitants of the province of British Guiana, is respectfully directed to the above Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Voluntary Subscription Immigration Society ; and any expense which may be incurred in forwarding the aforenamed Delegates from place to place, or otherwise, will be defrayed on application to the Board.

By command, THOS. C. BAGOT, *Secretary.*

We soon found we were amongst friends, who tendered us the hospitalities of the colony, and made ample arrangements to facilitate our travels throughout the colony. We remained in town for several days, sufficiently long to have possessed all the information relative to town affairs, manners, customs, &c.

We now undertake to give a faint description of Georgetown, the capital of the colony. The streets are all Mc-Adamized, and crossing each other at right angles. Water street, being the principal business street, is thronged with people throughout the day ; it is next to the river and runs parallel with it. The stores are very large, and well fitted with every article that fancy may dictate. The dwelling houses, which are frame, are built at least 20 feet apart, in order to have a free circulation of air ; and indeed, comfort being always consulted in the erection of their dwellings, all of them having large galleries or balconies in front, and many all around them, with abundant fruit and other ornamental trees, shrubbery and flowers, constantly dressed in their never dying foliage. The water used here is rain-water, falling upon slate roofs, and is conducted by spouts into cisterns, the most of which is composed of iron plates or wood—the water is very pure, clear and pleasant tasted. In Georgetown, there is two Protestant churches ; one Presbyterian ; three Wesleyan Methodist, and one Catholic ; all of which we visited, and were highly gratified to find them well attended, and that they had entirely abolished prejudice from the house of God, as well as every where else—persons of color occupying pews throughout the church, according to their standing and ability to purchase, with an ample number of free pews and seats for strangers and others.

On the first of February, at 10 o'clock, A. M. started on board of the American-built steamer Victoria, in company

with a Mr Wm. Jones, a highly accomplished gentleman, (the son of an opulent proprietor residing in England,) who, on the previous evening, had offered to accompany us to the islands of Legaun and Wakanaam. He proved of signal service in pointing out to us every thing of note, and in answering the many questions which we put to him, all of which we felt very grateful for, and on parting, we were provided with letters of introduction to every section of the country. We arrived at Legaun about half past 12, M., where we were kindly received.

We must now give a short description of the country. The land is flat, with canals running throughout the cultivated portion of the colony ; but these canals furnish three important purposes : 1st, to drain the land for the cultivation of sugar, &c. : 2dly, answers as fences or boundaries between plantations : 3dly, as means of transportation for the canes from the fields to the works, and from the works to the shipping ; hence, there is an immense saving in animal labor in bringing the produce to market. The country really has quite an animating appearance ; every thing like vegetation growing with the greatest luxuriance ; indeed, such is the fertility of the soil (which wants no manuring) that every thing belonging to a tropical climate grows as if it were by magic. Oranges, limes, and cocoanuts are in the greatest abundance. Pine-apples, bananas, plantains, mangroves, sappadilloes, guavas, and many other fruits too tedious to mention. Sweet potatoes, yams, casava, &c. whilst we also saw Indian corn growing, of which, there can be three crops raised in the year. Cabbage, beets, lettuce, cucumbers and tomatoes, with a great variety of peas and beans, we saw growing, and partook of the most of these things whilst there. The sight of all these things, as well as the sugar and coffee being in full bearing and maturity at that season of the year, can be better imagined than described. After being on this island three days, and visiting nearly the whole of it, and being highly gratified, we accepted the kind offer of Capt. Williamson, proprietor, who sent over one of his schooners to convey us to Wakanaam, where we spent two days, and had ample opportunity to test their hospitality, (which abounds every where,) and also to gather a great deal of useful information touching our mission. After spending an agreeable time on this beautiful island, Capt. W. sent another

of his schooners from the other side of the Island, which landed us at plantation "Good Intent," owned by Capt. W. From here, after spending a night and morning, we visited the next estate. "Spring Garden," owned by an American gentleman, Mr Charles Benjamin, who received us with every mark of friendship, and showed us every part of his beautiful estate, which is a charming situation, possessing many advantages as a situation in the country, being on the noble river Essequebo, and the Steamer from Georgetown stops here on her up and down passage, four times each week; besides a fountain of never failing water, obtained from a bore of great depth in the earth. After spending two days here, being furnished with horses by Mr Benjamin, who accompanied us some distance on the road, we started down what is termed the Arabian Coast, for at least thirty miles, stopping at several estates on our route, as we were provided with letters of introduction. This is the most splendid part of the colony, being in a high state of cultivation, with the exception of the many fields which has been recently thrown out for the want of laborers, as we found that to be the only complaint which was prevalent all over the colony; indeed, it is quite apparent to our view, for there were many acres of beautiful land only abandoned or thrown out the last year, and the canes and weeds growing up together; and many fields, particularly at "Spring Garden," there were canes decaying for the want of persons to cut and bring them to the works.

To give a minute description of our travels as written down upon our journals, would swell the form of this pamphlet beyond any reasonable size. That this country possesses advantages over most other countries, to the agriculturist, is beyond a doubt or cavil. We will pursue a description of our travels a little further, in as short a space as possible, and then give a substance of our researches in as concise a manner as possible.

After spending as many days as we thought proper, and seeing all and every thing of importance, conversing on every occasion with the laborers, not only in their cottages, but in the field and buildings where they manufacture the sugar, all of whom expressed their entire satisfaction of their situation, and would be glad to receive any number to help them in the field or works. After being absent from town ten days, we returned in the Steamboat

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to Georgetown ; on the wharf we met with a Mr Moses Benjamin, the American Consul, who gave us a pressing invitation to stop at his dwelling, which was near by, and make it our home, at that or any other time while we remained in the colony ; for this, as well as many other acts of kindness, he has our gratitude and best wishes. On the next morning, at half-past 9 o'clock, we again started on board the same steamer for New Amsterdam, in Berbice. On board, we found several gentlemen to whom we had been introduced before ; also, our friend Mr M. Benjamin, who was going on business. He paid us every attention, and introduced us to Mr D. C. Cameron, merchant of Berbice, who proffered his house as a home, as long as we might choose to remain in the colony. On the next morning (our arrival being noticed in the papers) we were waited upon by many proprietors, as well as others, all soliciting and seeming anxious for us to pay a visit to their district first, and furnishing conveyances in abundance.

February 12*th.*—It being a rainy morning, we could not fulfill our engagement to breakfast. After 12 o'clock it cleared, and we walked out to " Vryheid" coffee estate ; proprietor, Mr Welshman—returned by the way of the garrison, and arrived in time for dinner.

13*th.*—After a rainy morning, and through the politeness of Dr Cameron, we visited several plantations and returned to town the same day.

14*th.*—By arrangement, we started at an early hour in the morning up the east side of the Berbice river, in company with Mr Lang and Mr Newlands ; after a ride of about ten miles, we stopped at plantation " Buse's Lust," where we breakfasted with the gentlemanly manager, Mr Hicks. From here, we went further up the river to " Highbury," in a boat belonging to the sheriff, by invitation from him, to see the Hill-Coolies, natives of the East Indies, who are a hardy race, but yet in a state of ignorance, as they cannot be prevailed upon to quit their idols. At 4 o'clock, we embarked, to return to " Buse's Lust ;" in a short time we started for town, and arrived in time for dinner. We stopped at Mr Newlands, dined with him and spent quite an agreeable evening with him and his interesting family ; at 11 o'clock, returned to Mr Cameron's, which was close at hand.

15*th.*—Rained as usual in the morning. 12 o'clock, we

again started in a barge in company with three gentlemen, to visit an estate, "Standvastighied," which is about six miles up the river, on the west side—spent quite an agreeble afternoon and night. Returned next morning in time for church—went to the Rev. Mr Redwar's church, which was well attended. At 3 o'clock, paid a visit to his Sunday School, which is composed of 250 or 300 scholars, of all ages; some learning to read the Bible with spectacles, and repeating their catechism—indeed, it was quite a gratifying sight, to behold all these people seeking knowledge, it being only about 18 months since the most of them were emancipated. We left here, to fulfill an engagement out to dinner. Returned at 10 o'clock.

Monday morning, 17*th*.—Started again with our friend Mr Newlands, in a boat, across the river, to visit a portion of the west coast, and stopped at his plantation, "Woodly Park," where we found here, as every where, the great want of labor. Spent this day and night very pleasantly. Next morning, started early for town, where we arrived, highly delighted with our jaunt.

Tuesday, 18*th*.—Returned some visits, and made preparations to leave the next day in the steamer. At 10 o'clock, the next morning, took leave of our kind friends and Berbice, and at 5 we were again safe at Georgetown; spent one day, there, by invitation, started with Mr Butts, who proffered his carriage and company to visit some of the plantations on the Demerara river. Stopped on the way at several estates. At length, we arrived at Mr Butts' coffee and plantain estate, where we saw every thing in order; had a lunch, then returned to plantation "Hersterling," a very splendid estate—Attorney, Mr Rytemeyer; Manager, Mr Rogers. We parted company with Mr Butts, who went to town, and we returned to spend a day at this estate.

It rained all the following day, and we had to keep the house, which we spent in reading and writing. The next day, 22d, at 10, cleared off—horses and carriage being ready, visited several plantations, and stopped at "Golden Grove," Dr Rankin, proprietor, who gave us much encouragement for people to emigrate to this colony. Left here, and returned to town, and dined with Mr Rytemeyer, attorney for "Hersterling."

Sunday 22*d*.—Went to Presbyterian church, which was well attended. In the evening, went to Christ church, (Protestant); here the organ and choir is very good.

Monday.—Attended the criminal court, to witness some important trials then going on. This court is composed of three judges, as our court, and three assessors, who must be tax-payers; are called to take their place in rotation, without regard to color. We saw during our attendance, a colored gentleman occupying that station. Many of the clerks in the public offices are colored; also, tellers in the bank, &c. &c.

We have now got through with nearly all our excursions, and are anxiously waiting to get conveyance to Trinidad. We are told that we must wait for the steam-packet, which is daily expected, as she is now due. There is no direct communication between this place and Trinidad.

On the 28th, dined with Mr Wishart, a gentleman, of color, where we met with several white gentlemen, and every thing was in harmony with their professions. We spent quite an agreeable evening.

March 1st. — Sunday forenoon, went to Independent Chapel, (Methodist.) In the afternoon, to the Catholic, and in the evening to the Protestant churches.

Wednesday, 4th.—Received a polite invitation from a Mr Montaroux, proprietor of "Big Diamond," which is about 8 miles from town, to ride out in his gig, which he sent by a servant, to breakfast; then to visit the "Sand Hills," the beginning of the high land, distant from Georgetown not over 25 miles; in a few minutes we were on the road, and arrived in good time to breakfast. As soon as the tide served, our boat being well provided with provisions, as well as every thing else, we set sail with wind and tide in our favor, and at 6, we dined, being then near by. At 20 minutes past 6, we landed on a rising ground, which we ascended, and found ourselves upon a beautiful table-land of a very great space; this high land being first in the interior, it is at least 60 or 70 feet above the rest of the land; but we are informed that the land rises from this, up, forming beautiful table-lands to a great extent, which is untouched by the hand or feet of man.

After stopping at Mr Brotherson's all night, which was very pleasant and cool, we started the next morning on the way back; but according to promise, our friend Mr Montaroux, made us stop on the way down, to pay visits to two estates. In order, was plantation "Vive la Force," proprietor, Mr Dodson, who had waited breakfast for us.

Staid here but a short time, then walked over a very fine road, (for which the colony is famous,) to the next estate, saw Mr McClellan, the manager; this estate is called "Vriesland," and we must say, that this is certainly, one of the most delightful and best cultivated estates in the colony. The cottages and the head-men's houses are exceedingly comfortable and handsome; in fact, every thing and every person wore quite an animated and cheerful appearance. After spending some time here, we embarked in our boat, which had been brought down to this place by the boatman, and in a very short time we landed at the "Big Diamond," from whence we started, being highly delighted with our jaunt. We spent quite an agreeable evening with our friend and his interesting family.

6*th.*—Rose early and started for town, as we feared the packet had come in, and we might miss that chance to get on to Trinidad. On our arrival, found the packet in—made preparation to start in her for Grenada, which is the nearest place to Trinidad that the packet touches.

We will now endeavor to give the result of our researches. In the first place we will begin with

THE CLIMATE.

It being a part of the rainy season, we therefore, saw it in its worst aspect. The thermometer ranging from 78 to 83 deg. The sun rising in a bank of vaporish clouds. At 7 or 8 o'clock, the sea-breeze springs up from the east, and although it clears the atmosphere, the sun is by no means as oppressive as we frequently experience it in June, July and August. At the rainy season, at times, it rains very hard for a short time, stops suddenly and clears up. Sometimes it rains regular every forenoon, and in the afternoon it is clear: at another time it rained every night, and in the day scarcely a shower. On two different days while we were there, it rained all day.*

THE SOIL.

The soil is a rich alluvial deposite, and is the same to any depth, which requires no manuring, and everything of vegetable nature grows with the greatest luxuriance. Sugar and coffee being the principal articles raised for exportation,

*We were in the colony from the morning of the 21st of January, until the 10th of March, seven weeks.

paying exceedingly well at the prices they now bring in the British market, it is not to be wondered at that the whole resources of the colony are directed to it alone.

POLITICS.

There is but little noise about politics, as there are but a few offices within the gift of the people. However, every man stands on an equality in the eye of the law.

All criminal cases are tried by a court of three judges and three assessors; the assessors are chosen on the spot, from the tax-payers, without regard to color.

The only distinction in society is education, character, and wealth, for the higher walks—then gradations down, according to condition, &c.

Agriculturists are in great demand. Every plantation that we were upon (which were many) wanted from 40 to 50 hands, to carry on the cultivation already in operation. The present cultivation does not extend from the principal seaports, over 20 miles in the interior, and on both sides of those beautiful rivers, the Essequebo, Demarara and Berbice, many advantages are offered to industrious and enterprising capitalists, who would embark in the cultivation of vegetables, and rearing feathered as well as other stock for market, which would make at present, a handsome return to the undertaker.

The government land, according to law, is put up, upon application, at $5 per acre, and is published in the papers; if no one applies to over-bid that sum, it is then transferred at that price.

Wages paid for laborers and mechanics.—The field labor is similar to the working in corn-fields, and is done by task, of so many feet or yards. The price for each task is 33 1-3 cents, which, upon most estates, can be done in four or five hours. We saw a young woman at an estate called "Success," on the island of Legaun, finish her second task by 12 o'clock, and did not appear at all fatigued. In answer to a question put to her by us, that she could do three tasks every day, said if she felt inclined after dinner, she would do another task. We left her to visit several other estates, and returned about half-past 5, in the afternoon, and learned from her own lips, that she had done the third task about an half hour; the sun at this time being full half hour high; besides, each family has a very comfortable cottage

to live in, containing generally, two rooms on the first floor, and one above, with as much ground attached as they can cultivate in vegetables, and the doctor's bill for attending all on the estates, paid by the proprietor.

On many estates are very fine schools, and would be many more, could persons be found competent to the undertaking. There are at present, a great many churches in every direction, and would be many more, should it be required, as every profession is tolerated and encouraged.

Carpenters are in much demand, as well as many other tradesmen. The wages given is from $1 to $1 25; but we were informed by many master mechanics, that if our people would emigrate there, they would command higher wages, as they had been informed, that our workmen could do a great deal more work in a day than theirs.

Every estate presents quite an imposing appearance. The sugar works being very large, and all the machinery propelled by steam-engines; the proprietors, managers, and overseers' houses are very fine buildings; the handsome cottages for the laborers, now being built on an improved plan, averaging from 30 to 60 in number, gives them the appearance of a considerable village.

In going through the country, we had occasion to inquire of the planter, what encouragement he would give to a number of agriculturists who would undertake to cultivate any amount of land already in cultivation, upon shares. It appeared to meet their entire approbation; but before our departure from the colony, we put certain questions to the Emigration Committee in writing, upon that subject, as well as others, all of which were promptly answered.

Questions put to the Committee by your Delegates, and their answers :—

DEMERARA, Feb. 26, 1840.

To the Gentlemen composing the Voluntary Subscription Emigration Society.

SIRS:—We, the undersigned, do respectfully ask the following questions:—

1. Will the emigrants coming into this colony from the United States, have the right of choosing their employers without restraint or drawback from them for passage money, &c.?

2. What do the gentlemen composing this Society think of the

plan of cultivating certain cane-fields upon shares: that is to say, take said fields, after being cut, and keeping up the cultivation and delivery of the canes at the works?

3. What portion of the produce should the undertaker receive as his reward?

4. If bringing on new fields, what quota of the produce should he receive?

5. Should the undertaker want advances in money, on what terms could he procure it?

6. Should the emigrants bring with them their furniture, and provisions for their use, will the same be subject to duty? If so, please present us with a tariff of duties on such articles.

With due respect, we remain gentlemen,

Your most obedient and humble servants,

NATHANIEL PECK.
THOMAS S. PRICE.

BRITISH GUIANA.

Extract from the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Directors of the Voluntary Subscription Emigration Society, held at the Public Buildings, in Georgetown, Demerara.

MONDAY, March 2, 1840.

The Board resolved that the following answers to the questions contained in the letter of Messrs. Peck and Price, be communicated to those gentlemen.

1. Will the emigrants from the United States have the privilege to choose their employers, without restraint or drawback for passage-money, &c.?

Answer.—Emigrants arriving here from the United States or elsewhere, are free to select their employers. They will be superintended by the Government Emigration Agent, whose duty it will be to aid them, when they desire it, in the selection; to give them every information as to the localities of the colony, the rate of wages, the nature of the employment, and all other matters in which they are interested.

The passage money and expenses of maintenance during the voyage, will be paid for by this Society, for all laboring emigrants, whether agricultural or mechanical, and no drawback for them in any way whatever, will be made.

2. What do the Society think of the plan for cultivating cane-fields on shares, viz: to give over the fields after being cut—the

undertakers to keep up the cultivation and deliver the canes at the works?

Answer.—The plan here suggested has the Society's entire approbation.

3. What portion of the produce should the undertakers receive as reward?

Answer.—The Society have to observe that the proportion of the produce to be given to the cultivators, would in the first place, depend on the arrangement to be entered into between them and the proprietor of the land; which arrangement in the second place, will materially depend on the nature of the soil, the state of the cultivation, the condition of the drainage, and other local circumstances of the estate. The Society, therefore, cannot declare the proportion definitely, but they give their opinion that not less than one-third of the *gross produce* of the land would be the remuneration to the cultivators. The proprietor, however, should have the option of paying the value thereof, in money, at cash market prices, or according to arrangement.

4. If undertaking new fields, what quota should be received?

Answer.—Not less than half of the gross produce for the first crop, and one-third for the succeeding crops. These remunerations to be free of deductions.

5. Should the undertaker want advances in money, on what terms could he procure it?

Answer.—The Board observes that in their opinion, no difficulty would arise in procuring advances of money from time to time from the proprietor, having reference to the progress in quality and quantity of the work undertaken; but this would also form a part of the arrangement between the cultivator and proprietor.

6. Should emigrants bring out with them their house furniture and provisions for their own use, will the same be subject to duty? If so, please present us with a tariff, &c.

Answer.—Beds and bedding and cooking utensils, would be considered passengers' baggage, and not liable to duty. With regard to household furniture and provisions, the Board directs the following tariff of Queen's duty on articles from the United States, and a list of those free of duty, to be furnished to the Delegates.

Household furniture, 15 per cent. ad val. Flour, 5 shillings per bbl. Beef, Pork, Hams and Bacon, 12 shillings per cwt. Sausages, 7 1-2 per cent. ad val. Cheese and Butter, 15 per cent. ad val. Corn Meal, Biscuit, Peas, Beans. Potatoes, Corn, Oats, Hay, Rice, fresh Vegetables, fresh Fruit, Horses, Cattle, Sheep, Hogs, feathered Stock, free of duty. Salt Fish prohibited altogether.

(A true extract.) THOMAS BAGOT, *Secretary.*

It may not be amiss to give you what information we gathered as to the amount of sugar that an acre will produce on land that has been in cultivation for thirty or forty years, without manuring. The estimated amount is from 2,550 to 3,400 pounds ; and at the prices it brought to the planter at the time we were there, was from $6 to $7 per hundred. At the lowest quantity and price, it would yield $153 per acre. At the largest amount, 3,400 pounds, at 7 cents, it would yield $238 ; besides the rum and molasses ; which at the prices it was then bringing, say from 30 to 40 cents per gallon, (taking the average quantity and price to the acre,) would be about $60 more ; and 30 hands can keep up the cultivation of 100 acres. Now, we think, the agriculturist has every thing to gain and nothing to lose.

Laborers about the wharves and shipping, can earn $1 per day throughout the year.

Brick and potters' clay are to be found every where in the greatest abundance. The bricks now in use, (which are imported,) are worth $20 per thousand. There are no potteries in the colony, nor did we see any stone-ware while there.

Boat-builders and wood-cutters are much in demand, as well as those who understand sawing ship-timber, &c.

Washwomen, nurses and sempstresses are in demand, and $1 per dozen is paid for washing clothing.

It may not be unacceptable to the reader to learn the prices of some articles, that he may know how to govern himself.

House rent about 100 per cent. higher than in Baltimore. Furniture, about the same. Flour, from $11 to $13 per barrel. Hams, from 16 to 20 cents per pound. Veal and mutton very scarce ; 25 to 30 cents per pound. Fresh pork, 20 to 25 cents per pound, scarce. Beef, 16 cents, and plenty. Butter, from 50 to 60 cents per pound. Loaf Sugar, 18 to 20 cents per pound. Coffee, 25 to 30 cents, per pound. Tea, $1 to $2 per pound. Brown Sugar, 16 cents per pound. Rice, 50 cents per gallon. Sperm Candles, 67 cents per pound. Dipped, 16 to 20 cents per pound. Chickens, $1 to $1 50 per pair. Geese, $2 to $2 50 each. Turkeys, from $3 to $5 each. Vegetables, such as grow in this country, very high.

The prices of all the above articles are by retail ; but in-

stead of the high prices being a disadvantage, we look upon them as a decided advantage to the enterprising producer; for it is the scarcity of those articles, such as fowls, &c. that cause those high prices. Let there be a sufficient number turn their attention to furnishing those articles for market, and our word for it, they cannot fail to succeed in making money, and bringing down the prices.

Clothing of every description is cheaper than in this country.

Fuel, in town, is within the reach of the poorest; it sold at many places, as low as 8 cents worth, and is only used for cooking. On plantations, it can be had for the trouble of cutting it. Therefore, although the high prices of various articles of food, may, at a first glance, appear discouraging to the emigrant, yet we do not hesitate to declare, that they are reduced even below the level of prices in this country, when we consider that in Guiana, the laborers on the plantations, have neither house-rent, doctors' charges or schooling for his children to pay; while the expense of fuel is saved, and the cost of clothing diminished more than one half.

But in order to give a clear and distinct view of the colony and its resources, let us imagine a large and extensive country, with most luxuriant soil, capable of producing every thing that grows in a tropical region, and that all the cultivation is confined to the borders of the sea-coast, or along the margin of three mighty rivers.

The first in order, and the largest and most important, is the Essequebo, which is navigable for 250 miles; at the mouth of which, stands the two beautiful Islands, Legaun and Wakanaam, which alone, are capable of receiving an addition of many thousand emigrants. The Arabian coast, the acknowledged garden spot of the colony, is we believe, equally, if not more healthy than Baltimore. This coast, which is in a high state of cultivation, is now prepared to receive an addition of some thousand emigrants; who would be at once, in comfortable situations.

The next river, is the Demerara, upon which, near the entrance, stands Georgetown, the capital of the colony, and the principal sea-port. This river runs in a serpentine course into the interior, to a very great extent. The cultivation binding on this river, does not extend more than 20 miles from the principal sea-port.

The Berbice river is the next, but not the least, it runs nearly parallel with the two former, but to a greater extent than the latter. The cultivation on this river does not extend from the port of shipment (which is New Amsterdam, in Berbice) over 12 miles. Hence, it is easy to discover the many advantages that this country possesses in a great degree, for the enterprising agriculturist.

A large amount of the very best land is lying idle, and a great portion, (thousands of acres,) bordering on those rivers, where vessels of 250 tons can ascend for at least 200 miles, is entirely without cultivation. The inviting aspect of the country is at once observable to any one having the most contracted ideas of agriculture.

The timber upon this land is of the most precious kind, and is suitable for furniture, as it is susceptible of a very high polish. There are several establishments in the interior for cutting and exporting this timber, with several steam-saw mills, to convert it into plank, &c.

Numerical Bill of Mortality for the years 1837, 1838 *and* 1839. *Population trifle less than* 15,000, *in Georgetown.*

YEARS.	WHITE INHABITANTS.	COLORED INHABITANTS.	TOTAL.
1837	174	490	664
1838	138	547	685
1839	135	476	611
	447	1,513	1,960

The following letter was received in answer to questions propounded by us, to a respectable landed proprietor, relative to the prices of land :—

GEORGETOWN, *British Guiana, March* 9, 1840.

Messrs. NATHANIEL PECK and THOMAS S. PRICE.

DEAR SIRS :—In reply to your inquiry respecting the price of land in Essequebo, I beg leave to say, that to parties who would engage to erect dwellings, and settle on Great Troolie Island, where I have about 1,200 acres, of soil equal to any in the colony, and superior to a greater part of it, I would now sell at from $15 to $40 per acre, in proportion to the distance from the water-side. This land I would engage to afford the means of drainage to by one or more kokers, as might be found requisite, the drains to be made and kept free by the purchasers.

The land I have reference to, is on the windward or east side of the island; has been, in former times, in cultivation, and could be drained and again put in cultivation, at much less expense than new

land, with heavy wood upon it. Should the purchasers be disposed to provide kokers for drainage for themselves, a deduction of 25 per cent. could be made from the price named. The land on the leeward side of the island, which has never been in cultivation, I would sell at from $10 to $30 per acre, in proportion to its distance from the water side, the purchasers draining it themselves. I should not be disposed to make a commencement of a sale in this way, unless fifty acres could be sold at once, and in lots of not less than five acres, and the purchasers to be bound to enclose their respective lots by a fence, or trench sufficiently wide to answer the purpose of confining within their own limits any live-stock they might keep. My terms would be, one-half of the purchase money on giving possession and title, and the other half, in two equal annual instalments; say, in one and two years. The latter half might be paid in agricultural labor, at the current rate of wages, if agreeable to the purchaser.

On the afternoon of the 10th of March, every thing being ready, we took our departure from Georgetown, on board the steampacket, Capt. Lunn, for Grenada. We arrived at Grenada, after a passage of fiftysix hours, on the night of the 12th, procured lodgings, and at the end of four days procured passage in a small sloop, the Governor Doyle, for Trinidad, where we arrived on the night of the 17th; procured lodging, by the assistance of a friend, and the next morning, walked out early—returned to breakfast, and learned that Messrs. Bushe, Losh, and Johnson, had called to see us. Shortly after, we met them on the street—they welcomed us to Trinidad, and Mr Bushe invited us to his dwelling. It was now arranged that we should be accommodated with conveyance to the country on the 20th. We spent the two days in town, to the best advantage, in order to find as many of the emigrants as possible, who had come out in the Metamora and Archer, and to learn from them how they liked the island. We met three or four, who had remained in town, they gave rather an unfavorable account of it. As they were mechanics, they no doubt, went out with rather too high wrought expectations. Their complaint was, that they did not receive as much for their labor, per day, as they did in the United States, and their board was high—tradesmen were not in demand. These persons were all unknown to us, except one, whom Mr Peck knew; therefore we could not rely entirely upon what we heard.

Early on the morning of the 20th, by the kindness of Messrs. Bushe and Losh, we were furnished with a horse and gig, and proceeded through a delightful part of the country, and were accompanied by those gentlemen. After travelling about six miles, we stopped at Mr Jackson's, who received us in the kindest manner. He is the proprietor of an extensive plantation. He invited us to breakfast the next morning, and to take a look at another portion of the island. After spending a short time here, we again set out, four or five miles further to one of Mr Bushe's estates, where we breakfasted. Here, we saw a number of the emigrants, and conversed with them; some few were dissatisfied. The reasons they gave for it, was this:— That they sold their furniture in the States, for little or nothing, and when they went to purchase there, they found every thing much higher than in this country. The churches being a good distance from some of them, was another cause of complaint. Others, with the price of provisions. We endeavored to convince them of the necessity of undergoing some difficulty and privations, which is a sure attendant upon all such changes; but although we did not see as many advantages as we had witnessed in Guiana, yet this island possesses many advantages over the United States for the industrious man of color. At this place, we met two carpenters, from New York, who said they were satisfied, and were doing well.

We then went further on, to another of Mr Bushe's estates, where there were more of the emigrants, who appeared to be in better spirits; in fact, they appeared determined to surmount all temporary difficulties, and show what can be done. They had planted gardens of many vegetables; such as grow in this country, and they appeared to be thriving. Corn grows luxuriantly, and three crops the year can be had from the same field. After spending a considerable time here, we returned to town, highly gratified. By invitation we dined with Mr Bushe, where we met several gentlemen, who gave us every encouragement to emigrate to that Island.

The next day, through the kindness of Messrs. Bushe and Losh, we were furnished with horses; a young gentleman also accompanied us. We started, to fulfill an engagement with Mr Jackson, where we arrived in a short time, and then rode with him through his extensive planta-

tion, which like all others, is in want of laborers to keep up the cultivation. After breakfast, our horses being ready, we set out through a beautiful valley, to a cocoa plantation, owned by Mr Jackson. It is a delightful retreat, with a fine house upon it ; this place he offers to any respectable party upon advantageous terms—either to sell, lease, or work it upon shares. On the same property, is erected a mill, turned by water, to grind arrow-root, for starch. This place has been in arrow-root, and would take but little trouble to cultivate it again. After spending quite an agreeable time, we took leave of our friend, and arrived in town before sun-set.

The next day, being Sunday, breakfasted with Mr Bushe ; while there, was waited upon by a committee of four gentlemen, requesting us to prolong our visit, in order to partake of a public dinner, which they tendered us. The list shown us, was signed by some of the most respectable and wealthiest of the citizens ; but as we were then circumstanced, having made arrangements with a captain, in conjunction with Messrs. Smith and Shorter, (who were delegates from Annapolis,) we could not revoke our engagement to start.

Monday afternoon at 4 o'clock, set sail from Trinidad in the sloop Phebe, for St. Thomas, in order to get passage home, as there are seldom vessels direct from this port to the United States. We arrived at St. Thomas, the Sunday following.

On Tuesday, 31st March, sailed from St. Thomas in the brig Norfolk, Captain Mathews, for Philadelphia, where we arrived on the 11th of April.

Prices of articles, and prices given to field laborers.

The price per task, is 50 cents, and three tasks has, and can be done by the American emigrant. Flour, $11 to $13 per barrel. Bacon, 16 to 20 cents per pound. Fresh Beef, 10 cents per pound. Brown Sugar, 12 1-2 cents per pound. Loaf Sugar, 16 to 20 cents per pound. Butter, 50 to 60 cents per pound. Coffee, 25 to 30 cents per pound. Tea, $1 to $2 per pound. Rice, 6 or 7 cents per pound. Veal and Mutton, 20 to 25 cents per pound, and scarce. Fowls, $1 50 to $2 per pair. Geese, $1 50 to $2 each. Turkeys, $1 50 to $2 50.

The great difference between Guiana and Trinidad is very perceptible upon the estates. In Guiana, every estate has the appearance of a manufacturing village. In Trinidad, the works, &c. upon estates, are on a very small scale, and the lack of that animation and life, which is every where found in Guiana at the time of making sugar. In Guiana, all the works are propelled by steam-engines, and the mill is fed by the same power. The workman's labor is lightened in many ways by it. In Trinidad, most of the works are propelled by mules, or water, and the manual labor is greater. The laborers' cottages, in general, are much more spacious and comfortable in Guiana, than those now in use in Trinidad. In conclusion, we unhesitatingly say, that Trinidad is a fine and beautiful Island, and possesses many advantages to the agriculturists, over the United States, but is in want of but few, if any mechanics.

As there appears a desire among many persons, to know whether we intend to settle in either of those places, and which of the two we preferred, we thought it advisable to get through with the report previous to the public meetings, before we declare our intentions. We now declare our preference for Guiana.

NATHANIEL PECK,
THOMAS S. PRICE.

P. S. The preference here expressed by Mr PRICE has been since confirmed by the removal of himself and family to Guiana.

STATEMENT

OF THE

ADVANTAGES TO BE DERIVED

FROM

EMIGRATION

TO

BRITISH GUIANA.

BALTIMORE, 4th Nov. 1839.

DEAR SIR—You were pleased to intimate in an interview which we, the undersigned, had with you, that the account drawn up by yourself of the situation and condition of British Guiana, would be, if requested, submitted to us for publication. We therefore do most respectfully request you to present the same to us, and in addition to it, please to state the probable facilities of communication between British Guiana and the adjacent islands, the distance to them, and also between Baltimore and British Guiana, and likewise the 2d Chap. of the 'Order in Council,' dated 7th September, 1838, relating to contracts between masters and servants.

We are Sir, your ob't servt's,

N. PECK,
JOHN WATTS,
H. H. TARTAR,
THOMAS GREEN,
JAMES P. WALKER,
PETER M. SMITH,
THOS. S. PRICE,
H. H. WEBB.

TO EDWARD CARBERY, ESQ.

BALTIMORE, 6th Nov. 1839.

GENTLEMEN—I was only this morning favored with your communication of the 4th inst. I have made the additions you suggest to the short account of British Guiana I prepared at your request, and have directed four thousand copies of it to be printed, which I shall have pleasure in forwarding to you as soon as they are completed.

I am your obedient serv't,

EDWARD CARBERY.

To the Reverend N. PECK,
JOHN WATTS,
H. H. TARTAR, and
Messrs. THOMAS GREEN,
JAMES P. WALKER,
PETER M. SMITH,
THOS. S. PRICE,
H. H. WEBB.

STATEMENT.

THE province of British Guiana, on the continent of South America, is a dependency of Great Britain, to which power it was ceded by the Dutch, in the year 1803. It is situated about seven degrees north of the equator. The thermometer indicates but little variation of temperature, generally ranging from 78° to 84°. The trade winds which constantly blow from the east, render the climate both salubrious and pleasant. The luxuriance of tropical vegetation is too well known to require any particular description—but there is, perhaps, no part of the West Indies that equals British Guiana, in the fertility of its soil, or the variety of its productions; in either respect, it can with truth be said, that it stands unrivalled.

The staple productions are sugar, rum, molasses, coffee and cotton, besides a considerable quantity of timber, hardwood lumber, and shingles. Large tracts of land are occupied as farms, where great numbers of cattle are annually bred. Cocoa, indigo, tobacco, arnotto, grow with great luxuriance, but these have entirely given place to the more profitable cultivation of sugar and coffee. Every variety of tropical fruit (too numerous to detail) is found here in the greatest profusion, and the plantain, yam, cassava, Edoe sweet potato and Indian corn, furnish cheap and delicious varieties of food, and amply repay the labor of cultivation. The soil is rich and alluvial, and appears to be inexhaustible; nor has it ever been found necessary to use manure in the cultivation of the lands. This country by its position is exempt from the visitation of hurricanes, which so frequently ravage and lay waste the West India Islands; nor are the hopes of the planter ever disappointed by the prevalence of drought.

British Guiana is divided into three counties, Demerara, Essequebo and Berbice, which contain seventeen parishes. The chief towns are, Georgetown, in the county of Demerara, and New Amsterdam, in Berbice. There are, likewise, numerous small villages in the country districts. Georgetown is the seat of government, and the principal seaport—it may be called the capital of the province.

The whole population of the three counties can be stated with tolerable accuracy at 90,000, of which, not more than 6,000 or 8,000 are white. This calculation does not include the Indian tribes who live in the forests, and whose numbers, I believe, have never been correctly ascertained. The principal rivers are the Essequebo, the Berbice, the Demerara, and the Pomeroon, besides numberless large creeks which afford access to the interior, and add to the fertilty and beauty of the country they intersect. British Guiana is bounded on the east, by the Corentyn river, which divides it from the Dutch colony of Surinam, and on the west, by the Morocco creek, or a tract of country adjacent thereto. The banks of the Morocco are inhabited by the Indians, of Spanish origin, whose subsistence is chiefly derived from hunting and fishing, and the cultivation of the cassava. The churches, chapels, and places of public worship (this account is from memory) considerably exceeds fifty, with numerous Sunday, infant and day schools for the gratuitous diffusion and extension of moral education among the laboring classes. On most of the principal estates, a schoolhouse is erected, and a teacher provided, where the children of the people who are hired on the estate, are entitled to receive instruction free of expense. By reference to the Royal Gazette, of the 7th May, 1839, published in Georgetown, it will be seen that in the official estimate of the amount required to be raised by taxes for that year, one hundred and thirteen thousand one hundred and seventeen dollars, were voted for the service of the Episcopalian, Presbyterian and Roman Catholic Churches and Chapels in British Guiana, for the year 1839. An amount so enormous, when the limited number of the population is considered, that this statement would have been withheld, had not the official Gazette alluded to, furnished proof of it — nor does this include the amount of voluntary annual contribution furnished by religious societies in England, and the inhabitants, towards the support of various dissenting chapels, which receive no pecuniary assistance from the Colonial legislature. On this subject it will not be necessary to add more — the most sceptical must be convinced, that ample provision is made for the religious instruction of all classes of the community.

The revenue of British Guiana is chiefly derived from a tax on the produce raised in the colony, and duties levied on the imports; parish or poor rates are unknown, and the laborer is exempt from every species of taxation, unless his annual income amount to five

hundred dollars. The militia laws were abrogated, and the Colonial militia disbanded soon after the emancipation took place, so that the poor man is not compelled to contribute any portion of his time to the public service, as is the case in all the other West India colonies. The parishes are divided into judicial districts, under the superintendence of a stipendiary magistrate, appointed and paid by the crown, to whom is intrusted the exclusive jurisdiction in all matters of dispute arising between the employer and the employed. The order in council, passed at Windsor, on the 7th day of September, 1838, and published in British Guiana, on the 30th October following, declares in Sec. 1, Ch. 4, 'that the stipendiary magistrate shall have an exclusive jurisdiction for the enforcement of all contracts of service, and for imposing all penalties for the breach or non-performance thereof.' It is, therefore, evident that the laborer has an independent tribunal to appeal to, uninfluenced by local interests or partialities. The magistrates are under the sole control of his excellency, the governor, by whom they can be suspended from office. For the further and more effectual protection of the laboring classes, it is declared in Ch. 2, of the same order in council, that no contract of service shall be of effect unless made within the colony, in the presence of a stipendiary magistrate, nor for a longer period than one year. The emigration agent in British Guiana is also a stipendiary magistrate. It is the duty of this officer to furnish emigrants arriving in the colony, with every information, and to prevent any imposition being practised upon them.

No invidious distinctions of color exist; equal civil and religious liberty are enjoyed by the inhabitants, and colonial offices and dignities are indiscriminately held by white and colored. The colored classes in British Guiana are wealthy, influential, and highly respectable. Many of them are magistrates, wealthy proprietors, merchants with large establishments, and managers of estates, receiving liberal salaries. The collector of customs at one of the principal ports, is a person of color, and many others hold public situations; it is, therefore, evident that color is no obstacle to advancement or distinction.

This magnificent country is as yet so thinly inhabited, that the settlements only occupy a narrow slip of land on the sea coast, and the banks of the principal rivers, not reaching further inland than eight or ten miles. A large tract of this coast, consisting of the finest alluvial soil, which was formerly in cotton, has been latterly abandoned, and the laborers removed to the more profitable culti-

vation of the cane. Land in the immediate vicinity of sugar estates, can be procured on the most reasonable terms, and the industrious settler who has purchased a location of his own, can always find lucrative employment for his spare time. The lowest rate of wages for field labor in British Guiana, is 33 1-3 cents for seven hours and a half, with the free occupancy of a cottage, medical advice and attendance during sickness, and as much provision ground as the laborer is willing to cultivate ; but when engaged in cutting cane, or the manufacture of sugar, higher daily rates are paid, and it is no exaggeration to say, that an industrious laborer on an estate, can easily earn sixteen dollars per month. In addition to this, all the people at work in the boiling house, are, on most estates, supplied gratis with allowances of provisions and molasses. No expense has been spared by the planters of British Guiana, in the erection of their sugar buildings and machinery. Each estate is provided with a steam engine for grinding the cane, and the laborer is assisted in every department of his work, by the skilfull application of ingenious and well adapted machinery. Both on coffee and sugar estates, the help of every description of persons is in demand, so that women and children of all ages, can find equally profitable employment in proportion to their capability, while gratuitous instruction is provided for those willing to avail themselves of it. Payment is made in specie, either monthly or weekly, as may be agreed on ; and so great is the demand for labor, that no one need remain out of employment an hour, provided he be a man of good character ; he will have numerous applications the moment it is known he is seeking hire.

There is no proprietor in British Guiana who would not be glad to double the number of people he has at present on his estate ; therefore, it may readily be imagined with what facility employment is procured. The roads through every part of the province are in good order, and the facilities of communication are increased by steamboats and schooners belonging to the different estates, which keep up a daily intercourse through every part of the colony. Clothing and fuel, two great taxes on the industry of the laboring classes in northern climates, are comparatively light burthens in the warm latitudes. Fuel is obtained without cost, on the plantations, and all descriptions of British goods, particularly such as are suited to the wants of the inhabitants, are considerably cheaper than in the United States. Tradesmen of every description, except coopers, can always be certain of immediate employment, with high

wages. The services of cooks and house servants are also in demand. Carpenters, blacksmiths, masons, painters, wheelwrights, &c., can earn from one to two dollars per day, according to their industry and skill, and if employed on estates, lodging is furnished them. Wood cutters are much wanted, and the numerous establishments on the banks of the rivers and creeks, offer profitable employment to hundreds of families. The voyage from this country averages about 18 days, and the number of American vessels trading there, would always enable the emigrant to write to or visit his friends. Steam communication is established by mail boats, to Barbadoes, and to most of the neighboring West India Islands, including St. Thomas; independently of which, frequent intercourse is maintained by means of trading schooners.

From these very hasty and imperfect observations, it is evident that under the free and impartial administration of the law, a fertile and thinly inhabited country, like British Guiana, offers great and substantial advantages to the industrious and enterprising man, who duly appreciating the inestimable blessings that spring from an equality of social privileges, would seek to enjoy these blessings himself, and secure them for his offspring. Let it not, however, be imagined that the idle, the vicious, or the dissipated, are likely to meet with success. Highly favored as this country is by the bountiful and beneficent hand of nature, no exemption will be found from the sentence pronounced upon Adam and his posterity —"In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread."

Extracts from the Order in Council alluded to.

CHAP. II.—*On the formation or entering into of Contracts of Service.*

SEC. 1. No contract of service shall be of any force or effect within any of the colonies aforesaid, unless the same shall be made within the limits and upon the land of the colony in which the same is to be performed.

2. No contract of service shall be in force within any of the said colonies, for more than four weeks from the date thereof, unless the same shall be reduced into writing, with all the formalities subsequently mentioned.

3. No written contract of service shall be in force within any of the said colonies, unless it shall be signed with the name, or in case of illiterate persons, with the mark of each of the contracting

parties, in the presence of a stipendiary magistrate, nor unless such stipendiary magistrate shall subscribe the written contract, in attestation of the fact that it was entered into by the parties voluntarily and with a clear understanding of its meaning and effect.

4. No such written contract for service shall be valid for more than one year from its date.

5. Every such written contract shall expire at the close of the stipulated time of service, without any notice on either side for that purpose.

CHAP. IV.—*On the Enforcement of Contracts of Service.*

SEC. 1. The stipendiary magistrates shall have an exclusive jurisdiction for the enforcement of all contracts of service, and for imposing all penalties for the breach, neglect, or the non-performance thereof.

2. This jurisdiction shall be exercised in a summary manner.

3. On complaint preferred and proof made by a servant before any stipendiary magistrate, that his master has not paid the servant's wages, or delivered to him the articles stipulated for, or that the articles so delivered were not of the prescribed amount and quality, or that by the negligence, or other improper conduct of the master, the contract of service has not been faithfully performed, or that the master has ill used the servant, the stipendiary magistrate may make order for the payment of the wages in arrear or for the delivery of the stipulated articles, or for compensation to be made to the servant for any injury by him sustained by such negligence or improper conduct of the master, or by his non-fulfillment of the contract, or by his ill usage of the servant; and if such order be not complied with according to the exigency and tenor thereof, the magistrate shall and may issue a warrant for the seizure and sale of the goods of the master, or so much thereof as may be requisite for making such compensation; and failing any sufficient distress, the magistrate shall and may make order for the commitment of the master to prison for any time not exceeding one month, unless compensation be sooner made. The magistrate may also in any of the cases aforesaid, if he shall see fit, order the contract of service to be cancelled either in addition to, or in substitution for, any such order as aforesaid.

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